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NEWS RELEASE

April 11, 2003

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UM STUDENT RADIO WINS TOP NATIONAL AWARD

MISSOULA, Mont. —

KBGA Radio News at The University of Montana-Missoula won top honors at the Broadcast Education Association convention April 4-7 in Las Vegas.

BEA honors outstanding student work in radio, television and mixed media, and it judged that a KBGA newscast that aired Sept. 11, 2002, was best in the country. The winning UM newscast featured a number of reports on the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

The program was produced by Danielle Cross, a junior in the Department of Radio-Television from **Great Falls**, and directed by Jenny Kuglin, a radio-television senior from **Missoula** and **Highlands Ranch, Colo.** Additional Sept. 11 coverage came from Keagan Harsha, a junior from **Columbus**, and Dax VanFossen, a junior from **Miles City**.

Tim Brown, the contest's organizer from the University of South Carolina, said the UM entry "showed the power of radio news and its potential to reach people."

Cross, Harsha and Jessica Hamner, a junior from **Hayden, Idaho**, also won individual awards.

Cross won second place in the radio hard news division for a story titled "Underage and Under the Influence." It took a look at the penalties students might pay for providing

-more-

alcohol to underage friends.

Hamner took second in radio sports reporting for her profile of a Special Olympics athlete, and Harsha won third in hard news with a story on NASA's visit to the UM campus.

The winning stories all aired on KBGA, UM's student radio station. Cross, Harsha and Hamner were in Las Vegas to accept their awards, and they also attended BEA workshops and presentations.

UM captured two other national awards. A television program produced by the radio-television department's 2002 junior class won first place in the student video competition.

"Business: Made in Montana" profiled a number of Big Sky Country businesses. The half-hour program aired on Montana PBS last summer.

UM Assistant Professor Ray Ekness won a faculty award for his work on the "Backroads of Montana" television program. Ekness researched, produced, wrote and edited a story on a Deer Lodge wheelwright who creates wheels for wagons and carriages. "Backroads of Montana" is a regular feature on Montana PBS.

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CBS
Local, hometown papers
KBGAwin.rl